

Office of The Board of Trustees

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**STATEMENT OF CHARLES S. WAY, JR.**

Before we conclude our meeting, I would like to make some personal remarks to our Board and the SC State community.

I think we can all be very proud of the progress our institution has made over the past couple of years.

Coming in at a time when the University was facing several serious challenges - including a very poor financial condition and the potential loss of accreditation – we, as a team, have all worked very hard and with measurable success:

- SC State's accreditation has been restored.
- We have balanced the budget....substantially reducing payables, so that SC State is 'current' on all of its financial obligations.
- Enrollment goals have been exceeded; and there has been an increase in alumni giving and faculty grants.
- And we have a new president. James Clark has brought valuable experience, integrity, and energy to SC State.

Of course, there are still challenges here, just as there are in every educational institution in today's complex and ever-changing world. But I feel confident that SC State is in a much stronger position to meet those challenges than ever before. That is in large measure because of you, the leadership of SC State, and our entire University family.

I say all of this to you now for two reasons:

First, to thank you...and to tell you how proud and grateful I am for our service together.

And second, to announce that this will be my last meeting with you, as I am retiring now from this Board.

As most of you know, I was born and raised in Orangeburg. My special affection for this town has been strengthened even further by the opportunity to serve with you at SC State. The date that I was born is right around the corner....December 18<sup>th</sup>. However, the year is in the distant past! 1937....80 years ago. I'm sure that you can appreciate that my family would like me to slow down a bit. And I think it's time I honored their wishes. I trust you can understand.

I leave you with great confidence in the leadership of SC State. James Clark has already proven to be a very effective president; and Milton Irvin will be a great board chair.

I also have the highest confidence in the future of the institution itself. As a demonstration of that confidence, I have committed to establish a scholarship fund to support SC State's most valuable assets: our students. These young men and women will have life-changing experiences at SC State. They, in turn, will live fuller lives, enriching South Carolina and our entire nation. And that is why we are all here. Thank you very much.